have to incur expenditure in Foreign currencies. The payment is made to them as per agreement between the Shipowners and Unions.

(c) Government do not maintain the details of payment by Shipowners to the crew members either in foreign exchange or in Indian currency.

(d) There is no proposal to pay them exclusively in Indian currency or to provide tax relief on such payment.

Effect of Duty Exemptions on Prices

3718. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of revenue to the Union Government due to duty exemptions granted during the current year;

(b) whether there has been any effect on prices as expected by the Government due to these duty exemptions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The estimated annual loss of revenue by way of exemptions, either partly or wholly, from customs and excise duties, during the current year so far is Rs. 1209.73 crores of which Rs. 1180.58 crores relate to the budget proposals of 1991-92.

(b) and (c). Duty exemptions are granted for achieving different objectives like reducing input cost, protecting the small scale sector, promotion of exports etc. It is expected that some of these concessions would result in reduced prices to the consumers. However, Government does not enforce price control on most manufactured products. Market prices are generally determined by a multiplicity of factors. While there is no legal mechanism except in cases where there is a price control to see that the concessions are passed on to the consumers by the industry, the administrative Ministries hold dialogue with the concerned industry with a view to persuade them to reduce prices where duty concessions are granted in order to bring down the prices.

Group Insurance Scheme for Landless and Agricultural Labourers

3719. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries under the Group Insurance Scheme for landless agricultural labourers in Andhra Pradesh, since its inception, district-wise;

(b) the number and amount of claims settled under this scheme, so far in the state, year-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend the scheme to other poorer sections of the society;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) It is not the practice in the Life Insurance Corporation of India to maintain district-wise statistics in respect of the beneficiaries under the Group Insurance Scheme for landless agricultural labourers. However, the total number of beneficiaries under the said scheme in Andhra Pradesh has been estimated as on 31st March, 1991 to be 6.75 lakhs.

(b) The number and amount of claims settled under this scheme are as below: